

Umbrella Group

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

Can you name an organization where rabbis sit cheek to jowl with Moslem divines?

To shorten the suspense, the organization is the Temple of Understanding.

The Temple is not yet a temple; it is the hope of the group one day to have a structure with six sides, representing the world's major faiths: Judaism, Mohammedanism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity.

Conceived 16 years ago by a Protestant housewife, Mrs. Dickerman Hollister, of Greenwich, Conn., the umbrella group has fostered seminars in India, Switzerland, and campuses throughout the U.S., Yale, Harvard, Princeton, Cornell, etc.

At these sessions in comparative religion the panels not only have rabbis and Moslems hobnobbing, but also beturbaned swamis, Hindu leaders and a wide assortment of religionists.

Rabbis who have taken part in these discussions include Rabbi Israel Goldstein, Rabbi Ezra Spicehandler and Rabbi Herbert Weiner. A prominent Jewish layman who sits on the board of the T. of U. is Col. Arthur Levitt, the best vote-getter in New York State, the Comptroller of the State of New York.

The Temple of Understanding is going to celebrate the birthday of the UN in a spectacular way. For three days, October 20 to October 22, it will conduct colloquies at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, in Manhattan, scene last year of a series of discussions of the Holocaust, Leadoff speaker: Margaret Mead.

And then on Thursday night, October 23, the Temple will put on a gala banquet at the Waldorf Astoria.

Why is the Temple of Understanding going to mark the birthday? Because, despite its handicaps, the UN is still, to use the cliché, man's best hope for peace. By fostering the festivities, the T. of U. hopes to prod the UN to become a surer haven for the peace hopes of mankind.

NEW YORK -- Twenty-six students from all over the United States left on a six week seminar to explore first hand, various aspects of life in Israel.



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MCGOVERN PROPOSALS FOR MIDEAST

WASH. (WNS) -- While stressing that the United States cannot impose a settlement on the Middle East, Sen. George McGovern (D, S.D.) has presented to the Senate "certain basic elements" of an overall settlement.

McGovern, who visited the Mideast as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said the Arabs should be prepared to "offer Israel full recognition and normalization of relations" in return for an agreement by Israel to return to her 1967 borders "with practical modifications negotiated by the parties."

In addition, McGovern added, Israel is "entitled" to "solid and precise military guarantees from the U.S."

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WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Legislation barring the proposed granting of \$58 million in aid to Syria has been introduced by three New York congressmen, Reps. Stephen J. Solarz, Jonathan B. Bingham, and Benjamin S. Rosenthal.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- If the Arab nations try to suspend Israel from the United Nations General Assembly they will "fracture the chances for peace in the Middle East," Sen. Charles H. Percy (R. Ill.) warned.

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